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31 OCT 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Director, National Foreign Assessment Center *rub*

FROM : Maurice C. Ernst
Director of Economic Research

SUBJECT : CIA Participation in Inter-Agency Food and
Agriculture Policy Working Group

1. Action Requested: Solicit an invitation from Secretary Bergland for CIA/OER to participate in the Food and Agricultural Policy Working Group.

2. Background: It has just come to my attention that an inter-agency Food and Agriculture Policy Working Group was established on 30 September 1977 under the chairmanship of the US Department of Agriculture. Membership includes at least CEA, OMB, State, Treasury, STR, HEW, Domestic Council, USDA, and NSC. The first meeting was held on 27 October 1977. CIA has not been invited to participate by USDA.

3. This new inter-agency group will perform basically the same role as that of the Agricultural Policy Working Group in the previous administration. The agency participated in this group and was represented by [] of this Office. (See attached memo) We believe that CIA/OER can make an important input into policy decisions reached by this inter-agency group on international agricultural commodity issues. Our contacts in OMB, Domestic Council, and CEA also feel CIA should be represented.

4. Recommendation: That the DCI contact Secretary Bergland to suggest that CIA/OER be invited to send a representative to meetings of the Food and Agricultural Policy Working Group. Our representative would be [] from the Office of Economic Research, NFAC.

MAURICE C. ERNST

Attachment:
As stated

SUBJECT: Memorandum for the Director of Central Intelligence

APPROVED: /s/ Standfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: 11 NOV 1977

Executive Registry

17-9679/1

Washington, D.C. 20505

11 November 1977

The Honorable Robert S. Bergland
Secretary of Agriculture
Fourteenth Street and
Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Bob:

I understand that an inter-agency working group on Food and Agricultural Policy has been formed under the chairmanship of the Department of Agriculture. My associates tell me that CIA has participated in a similar group under the previous administration and they believe the Agency can make a useful contribution to the deliberations of the new body.

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If you agree, one of your staff may contact [redacted] whom we suggest could attend the working group meeting as an observer representing the Office of Economic Research, National Foreign Assessment Center.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY) *Agriculture*